



July/ August 2006

Stanislaus & Tuolumne County News

Stanislaus/ Tuolumne
County
USDA Service Center

Stanislaus/ Tuolumne
County FSA
3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste E
Modesto, Ca 95358
209-491-9320 (phone)
209-491-9331 (fax)
E-Mail:
regan.anderson@ca.usda.gov

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
David Santos, chair
Kurt Erickson, vice chair
Robert Ott, member
Robert Brennan, member
Deb Wenger, advisor

County Committee meets
The first Thursday of each
month at 1:30pm

Staff
Alma Jacquez, PT
Lupe Mims, PT
Maria Juarez, PT
Carmen Cardenas, PT
Mike Terra, PT
Ulises Gonzales, PT
Joe Enos, Loan Officer
Betty Sheppard, Loan Of-
ficer
Regan Anderson, County
Executive Director



Make a Difference

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Stanislaus and Tuolumne County Farm Service Agency county committee.

This is an important time for the community because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers weather tough financial times and natural disasters.

Also, committee members are responsible for hiring the county executive director – a key player in the delivery of farm programs.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the CED for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address.

Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Dec. 4 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2007.

Make a Difference: Nominate and Vote!

This year, LAAs 12 and 14 are holding an election. LAA 14 includes producers residing in all of Tuolumne County. LAA 12 includes producers residing in Stanislaus County south of the Tuolumne River and west of Hwy 99 and east of the San Joaquin River, north of West Main, Fulkerth, Hawkeye, and Taylor. If you are unsure of which LAA you are located in, please feel welcome to contact or stop by the FSA office for additional information.

*****VERY IMPORTANT*****

*****Acreage Reporting*****

The timely filing of an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 for ALL CROPS by July 15, 2006

To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

If you have not certified **all** crops for 2006, please contact the county office staff **IMMEDIATELY** to avoid certification late fees.

We will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General.

Youth Project Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office. We'll help prepare and process the application forms and answer any questions you may have about the program. Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

Requesting LDPs for 2006

To request 2006 crop loan deficiency payments, you must use the CCC-633 EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request. Here's an explanation for each page of the form.

Page 1 – Producer's *intention to request* LDPs in the future.

- Must be signed before beneficial interest is lost.
- Terms and conditions for requesting LDPs.
- Covers all farms and all eligible crops in all counties.
- Submit one to the county office staff. Remind staff of other counties where you have farming interest.
- This is your intention to request an LDP in the future. It is not a request for payment.

Page 2 – Producer's *request for LDP* payment on feed grains, minor oilseeds, rice and pulses.

- Use after grain is harvested and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. The LDP rate will be the rate in effect on the date page 2 is received in the office.
- Can use after beneficial interest is lost. LDP rate will be the rate in your administrative county office on the date beneficial interest was lost. Must provide production evidence.
- Use when you wish to receive LDP rate based upon date commodity was delivered to warehouse. You must maintain beneficial interest from harvest through delivery to the warehouse. Complete all required sections including item 23B.

Page 3 – Producer's *request for LDP* payment on *specific bales of cotton*. Bales lists must presented with payment request.

- Use to lock in a rate when in module. This is irrevocable. LDP rate is based on Average World Price lock-in.
- Use for gin direct LDP. LDP rate is based on AWP on the date cotton ginned.
- Use to lock-in AWP on specific date, after ginning and is irrevocable. The LDP rate is date page 3 received in county office.
- Use when previous other options not used and you have lost beneficial interest. LDP rate based on date you lost beneficial interest in the cotton.



Page 4 – Producer’s *request for LDP payment on sheared wool, sheared mohair or unshorn pelts.*

- Use when wool or mohair is sheared and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. LDP rate is based on date page 4 is received in county office.
- Use if beneficial interest is lost at shearing. LDP rate will be the rate in your administrative county office on the date beneficial interest was lost. Must provide production evidence.
- For unshorn pelts, page 4 is submitted within 60 days of slaughter. LDP rate is based upon date of delivery to slaughter company or buyer. Additional sheared wool and mohair and unshorn pelts information may be obtained from the county office.

Page 5 – Used when additional signatures are needed.

Additional items to remember

- The next time you’re in the county office, please verify you’ve signed and submitted page 1 of the CCC-633 EZ.
- Submit CCC-633 EZ, page 2, 3 or 4 for each LDP payment in person, by fax, by mail or by filing electronically.
- Submit payment requests before the final loan availability date.
- You can use eLDP Web site to request LDP if you have e-Authentication and page 1 has been received in the county office.
- Contact our office for details.
- Form can be found at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.
- FSA Web site for price supports is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/default.htm>.

Signing for Entities

In simpler times, when a producer visited the county office to sign a form there was no question about how to sign. The producer simply signed his or her name on the dotted line.

In today’s world of “entities” — trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships and corporations — signing Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation forms isn’t so simple.



First, you have to have a document on file at the county office saying you’re authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

Second, you have to know how you’re supposed to sign. In almost all instances, when you’re signing for an entity, your signature has to include “by” or “for,” indicating you’re signing in a representative capacity.

For example, say you have a partnership, the John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, and you’re authorized to sign for the partnership. Acceptable signatures include “by George C. Smith”; “by George C. Smith, Partner”; and “John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, by George C. Smith, Partner.”

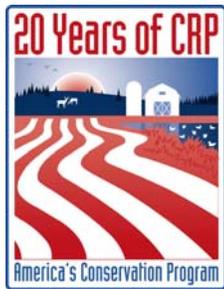
Remember, if you’ve established an entity for your operation, you can no longer sign forms and contracts as yourself. When you have signing authority for an entity, you have to sign forms on behalf of the entity, not yourself.

If you have questions about the proper way to sign forms and contracts for your entity, contact the county office staff. We can review the records and help determine the acceptable signature for your situation.

DCP Signup draws to a close

The deadline to sign up for the 2006 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) without a late fee was June 1, 2006. Signups will continue to be accepted until September 30, 2006, however, a \$100 per farm late fee will be assessed for any farm enrolled from June 1 to September 30. To be considered enrolled, the contract must be signed by all owners, operators, and/or tenants who share in the payments, and current leases or landowner signatures must be on file for all cash leased properties on the farm.

As a reminder, at the time of signup, you may be asked to provide current leases, grant deeds, bank statements, equipment lists, partnership agreements, articles of incorporation, corporate bylaws, or any other documentation necessary which is not already on file with the office to verify your continuing program eligibility.



Dates to Remember	
July 15	Final certification date for all 2006 crops.
August 1	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
August 1	Final date to request farm re-constitution for current fiscal year.
September 4	Labor Day Holiday- Office Closed
September 30	Last day to sign up for 2006 DCP program, with a late fee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.